

Wild Montenegro - Hiking Tour 3: "WILD BEAUTY"

National Park Prokletije, Biogradska Gora National park & Regional Nature Park Komovi



- Holiday type - ***Guided walking***
- Duration - ***6 nights/7 days***
- Locations - ***National park Biogradska Gora, National Park Prokletije & Regional Nature Park Komovi***
- Group size - ***min 4 - max 18 persons***
- Difficulty grade - ***Easy to Moderate***
- Availability - ***May - October***
- Price from - ***1,099 euro (€)***

VISIT...

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Overview

Explore a land of rugged beauty, home to jagged peaks, deep canyons and thick forests with this Montenegro hiking holiday.

Discover the country's best trails and most jaw-dropping scenery, sometimes by **hiking to places few people ever visit**, taking in impressive mountain ridges, glacial lakes and canyons where pristine blue rivers flow, and perhaps even spotting some interesting wildlife along the way.

Our experienced team of guides will lead you on a real outdoors adventure, with hikes in the **Biogradska Gora National park**, **Komovi Massif** and the hidden jewel – **Prokletije National Park**.

The diverse flora and fauna of **Biogradska Gora National park** is another amazing treasure of nature. Due to its immense natural wealth and its preservation, Biogradska Gora National park was proclaimed **UNESCO Natural Heritage Site**.

Prokletije National Park is the most dramatic hiking destination in Montenegro. They're the southernmost and **highest part of the Dinaric Alps**. Surreally scenic and remote, this magnificent area may well be one of **Europe's least explored corners**. Vertical peaks pierce the sky. The park encompasses most of the Prokletije Mountains, which form the natural border between Montenegro and Albania. Given the remoteness of this region, **you'll see very few people hiking here**.

One of the most impressive mountains in Montenegro is the **massif of Komovi**, situated in the eastern part of Montenegro, bordering Tara River to the west and Prokletije mountain range to the south. **Diverse and unique flora and fauna**, numerous clear mountain springs and rivers, many cultural monuments, churches and monasteries, as well as **the warmth of the people who live in Komovi foothills**, can't leave you indifferent. For anyone who likes hiking, Komovi and its peaks are one of the most interesting sites to visit.

Trip Highlights:

- *Exceptional walking through the country's most impressive mountain ranges and national parks: Biogradska Gora, Komovi and Prokletije*
- *The majestic wilderness of Prokletije (aka the Accursed mountains) one of Europe's most remote corners and incredible scenery*
- *Visit Hrid Lake at 1970m, Montenegro's highest and most beautiful lake. Pure nature and wild beauty!*
- *Grebaje Valley - the heart of the Prokletije National Park with a hike to Volusnica and Popadija, two peaks from where you will have the most beautiful view over the whole park*
- *Beautiful Ropojana valley with natural attractions – Eye of the River Skakavica, the waterfall of the River Grlja and Alipasa's springs*

Itinerary

Day 1

Monastery Moraca & Kolasin

Transfer from airport Podgorica/Tivat/Dubrovnik to Kolasin. The road to Kolasin will lead us through the **impressive canyon of Moraca river, Platije Canyon**, where we will take a break to visit **the orthodox monastery Moraca built in the 13th century**, one of the most monumental medieval memorials in Montenegro.

Kolasin is a small resort located at 954 meters above sea level. It is surrounded by three mountain ranges – Sinjajevina, Komovi and Bjelasica. Like most ski towns, it looks far prettier under a blanket of snow, but even in summer, it's a handy base for exploring Biogradska Gora National Park and other parts of the Bjelasica Mountain.

Day 2

National park Biogradska Gora – Hiking Zekova glava summit (2117) with descending to Pesica Lake

Mountain Bjelasica with its specific shapes, rolling hills and smooth pastures is predestined for sustainable mountain tourism both in summer and in winter. This pastoral mountain **invites nature lovers for an easy hike** with breathtaking views.

This hike begins at Bjelasica ski centre Jezerine (1450 m). Walking through the forest, we will arrive at the Vranjak village. After, a brief stop we will **hike up to the summit of Zekova Glava** and enjoy a prolonged rest at a nearby **glacial lake called Pesica Lake**. At the lake, we will have a chance to enjoy spectacular nature, take beautiful pictures, and possibly go swimming in the cold water.

Walking for the day: 5-6 hours, 6 km ↑600m ↓600m

Day 3

Summit of Kom Vasojevicki (2460 m)

Coming to Stavna vast plateau, your attention will immediately be drawn to one **impressive peak** on the left, that's **Kom Vasojevicki**. The summit of Kom Vasojevicki offers many beautiful panoramas.

The route to Kom Vasojevicki begins from Stavna, on the north side below rocky massif. The path continues along with grassy and rocky areas. After approximately 2,5 hours of ascent, you will stay on beautiful Vera Pass (2200 m) which opens the views to the border mountains of Albania, in particular to the Prokletije mountain range and its highest peak Maja Jezerce (2694 m) which dominates in the wider area. From there, the path continues to the summit and very soon **you'll have the privilege to enjoy the most impressive and amazing scenery – the view from the summit is simply mind-blowing**.

Walking for the day: 5-6 hours, 6 km ↑650m ↓650m

Day 4

Walking tour to Hrid Lake (1968 m)

Transfer to Plav. Our destination for today is situated around 20 km from Plav and according to many opinions, it is **the most beautiful mountain lake in Montenegro – Hrid Lake**. Hrid Lake is a glacial lake also known as a "Pearl of Prokletije". The clearness of the water of the lake was an inspiration to many legends. One of them says that the **Lake was created by the Gods as a hidden bathing place for fairies**, where they could bathe unseen by human eyes. It is set in a

spectacular landscape with high pine and spruce trees and interesting rock formations. **Pure nature and wild beauty!**

After a **break at the lake to take photos**, we optionally continue the ascent up to the nearby peak Hridski Krs, **or stay and swim in the lake**. Transfer back to Plav. Visit to the Ethno-Museum of the Tower of Redzepagici.

Walking for the day: 4-5 hours, 7 km ↑250m ↓250m

Day 5

Grebaje Valley or circular hiking tour to mountains Volusnica (1879 nm), Talijanka (2056 m) and Popadija (2057 m)

**Option 1 -Grebaje Valley*

This tour is a **true paradise for outdoor lovers!** The Grebaje Valley is situated in the heart of the Prokletije National Park, next to the Albanian border. It is surprisingly **very quiet, still undiscovered despite its breathtaking landscapes**. The valley is U shaped, surrounded by high sharp peaks resembling a titanic jaw of a Balkan wolf. We walk to the end of the valley, looking for the rock formation called the **"kissing cats"** overlooking the summits. We will feel like we have arrived in an impregnable fortress enclosed by vertical walls no men could have ever built.

Walking for the day: 2-3 hours, 4 km ↑100m ↓100m

**Option 2 – Circular hiking tour to mountains Volusnica (1879 nm), Talijanka (2056 m) and Popadija (2057 m)*

A moderate hike delivers the **most incredible view of the Karanfili peaks**, the most photogenic massif in the Accursed Mountains. This hike isn't difficult, however, don't expect a flat trail. When we reach Volusnica, **the hike continues along the ridge to Talijanka, the peak that separates Montenegro and Albania**. Prepare yourself to be astonished.

Volusnica is a 700 m ascent to a peak that will give you a magnificent viewing point on that part of the Prokletije Mountains. Once on top, you can add a 2-hour **ridge walk** which will bring you back to the track down **offering staggering views of the craggy Karanfil Mountains**, nicknamed – with good reason – **the 'Dolomites of Montenegro'**. During the return journey, we will pass by the **rock carvings** (petroglyphs) dating from the Neolith Age of 6000 years B.C. There is a primitive drawing showing a wolf attacking a child, as well as other Palaeolithic items.

Walking for the day: 7-8 hours, 11 km ↑870 m ↓ 870 m

Day 6

Ropojana valley, Eye of the River Skakavica, the waterfall of the River Grlja and Alipasa's springs.

Ropojana valley is a spectacularly beautiful place – jagged limestone peaks, rolling green pastures, high passes and wonderfully hospitable mountain villages. Hidden deep in the valley and surrounded by a dense forest, **the Eye of the River Skakavica or Sava's Eye attracts visitors with its crystal-clear water** through which every stone can be seen, and which constantly changes its colour from shades of blue to green throughout the day. Fed by water from this spring, the River Skakavica, after slightly more than two kilometres of its course, suddenly disappears under the surface, forming a **30-metre high waterfall of the River Grlja**, one of the largest and most beautiful waterfalls in the Prokletije Mountains.

We continue with the tour to **Alipasa's springs**. It is said that the famous Ali-Pasha of Gusinje used to come here every morning to enjoy the beauty and serenity of this place in which a magnificent play of nature created a large karst spring comprised of 25 minor springs.

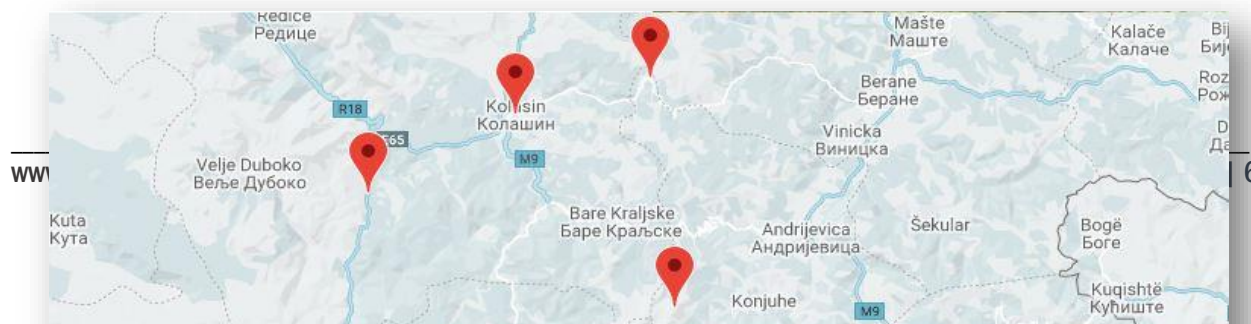
Walking for the day: 3-4 hours, 4 km ↑ 150 m ↓ 150 m

Day 7

Departure or extensions

Transfer to airport Podgorica/Tivat/Dubrovnik.

Note: In case you are arriving/leaving one or two days before/after the group departure do not hesitate to contact us for organizing your stay, activities and/or transfers.



INCLUDED:

- 6 nights / 7 days
- All accommodations
- All breakfasts & farewell dinner
- Packed lunches during hikes
- All transfers – minivan and driver from and back to the airport, as well as local transfers, in accordance with the program
- English-speaking licensed tour guide
- Parks entrance fees
- Local tourist tax

NOT INCLUDED:

- International flights tickets
- Travel insurance (obligatory)
- Lunches outside of the program
- Your own trekking/hiking gear
- Personal expenses such as phone calls, alcoholic beverages, souvenirs, extra transfers, tips, etc.
- Optional gratuities to your guide(s)
- Any items not explicitly mentioned in the program

ADDITIONAL INFO

Accommodation

You will mostly stay in **3* hotels** or in **private lodgings (apartments & guesthouses)** that are especially appealing or the only choice in a remote location. We have selected **small family-run hotels and cozy guesthouses** whenever possible for their **intimate atmospheres**, as well as for their ability to share with you the history and culture of their specific Montenegrin region. Generally, **rooms in Montenegro are double or triple rooms** (we will assign you a roommate of the same gender, if possible) and you may find that some are small apartments with a kitchen. If you request **single accommodations**, you will be **required to pay the single supplement fee**. Please be advised there are a limited number of single accommodations available, and single accommodations may not be available for the village stay.

Meals

Breakfast is included. When no restaurant location is available on the route, **packed lunches** will be pre-ordered. **Dinner is available** either in the restaurant in your hotel or restaurants and taverns in the village near your accommodation. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free meals are available upon request.

Transfers

All transfers from and back to the airport, as well as local transfers, in accordance with the programme, **are included**. Luggage transfer also is included, and your bags will be transferred by private transfer to your next accommodation. **Baggage limit 25 kg per person.**

Difficulty Grade: EASY TO MODERATE

Mostly Easy but may include longer **moderate hikes on some days** with some moderate uphill/downhill elevations and steeper ascents/descents. Generally, routes will be well maintained but may involve some mixed/rougher terrain and steep/exposed sections on certain days. Appropriate **for regular walkers**. A reasonable level of fitness is required.

Walking is on average 4-6 hours per day (up to 12 km of walking).

Each evening **your guides will inform you about the next day's activities** and answer any questions you may have.

Documents & credits cards

- **Valid passport** and ID card
- **Money, and/or credit card (currency in Montenegro is the Euro - €)**
- **Travel health insurance certificate**

We recommend **taking sufficient cash** for your daily requirements. **Banks and ATMs are available**, and **credit/debit card payments are widely accepted in towns** but might be limited in some of the villages we visit.

Medication

If you **require any medication**, please take **adequate supplies** for the duration of your holiday. It's advisable to carry your medication in your hand luggage instead of packing it in your suitcase (backpack).

Climate & Country info

Montenegro's coastline has a **Mediterranean climate with hot dry summers and mild winters**, whereas the more **mountainous inland areas have a sub-alpine climate with warm summers and cold winters** with snowfall. There is a chance of **sporadic rain in spring and autumn** in the coastal areas, though generally, this is in the form of short showers. In the mountains, rainfall tends to be more frequent including around the Bay of Kotor. **Average temperatures from May to October are generally in the mid 20's(in °C) but can reach into the 30's(in °C) in July and August.**

Typically, you can expect **excellent weather in Montenegro from April to November.**

- Time difference to GMT +1
- Currency-Euro (€)
- Religion-Christian (mainly Orthodox)
- Language-Montenegrin, English is widely spoken
- Electric supply and plugs: 220V, 50Hz, two-pin round plugs

Clothing tips

The right equipment for walking tours is important for a convenient holiday. Take care that you wear comfortable clothes to meet the climate of the region and season.

The key to staying comfortable while on an active trip is layering. To get maximum comfort with minimum weight, you need versatile layers that mix and match to create the right amount of insulation, ventilation and weather protection.

Luggage

Bring **one main piece of luggage** and a **25-30 litre day backpack** is recommended. You will need to carry what you need for the day which may include a rain jacket, fleece, t-shirts, camera, sun-cream, water and picnic lunch. On hot days you will carry fewer clothes but more drinking water.

What to pack?

This **gear list** has been created **to help you in choosing your equipment for the trip**. Try to bring only what is necessary, this will help you and the field staff.

- Backpack (25 – 30 l) with raincover
- Hiking shoes (mid-to high-cut models)
- Hiking Socks (Synthetic or Wool)
- Hiking Pants (Convertible, Quick-Dry, Lightweight)
- Long Sleeve Shirts (Synthetic, Lightweight)
- Jacket (Hooded, Lightweight, Waterproof, Breathable)
- Fleece/Wool Jacket or Sweater
- T-Shirts (Synthetic)
- Shorts
- Hat or cap – Sun protection is important!
- Swimwear and Towel
- Hiking poles (if you usually use them)
- Reusable water bottle(s) 1.5 – 2 L per person
- Small backpack pharmacy
- Casual Clothing and Shoes for Travel and Town Wear
- Camera and Accessories
- Mobile phone and charger
- Headlamp
- Sunglasses, sunscreen/sunblock and lip balm
- Insect repellent
- Travel Pillow
- Toiletries